



Youth in the Labour Force

2015

Alberta

Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, youth are defined as persons aged 15 to 24 years.

Alberta Youth Population Statistics

- Among the provinces, Alberta had the fourth highest proportion of youth in its working age population at 15.6%, after Manitoba at 16.5%, Saskatchewan at 15.9%, and Ontario at 15.8%.
- The Alberta youth population grew by 9.4% between 2005 and 2015.

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

- Alberta had the second lowest youth unemployment rate in the country at 10.7%, after Saskatchewan's 9.8%.
- Alberta had the second highest youth participation rate in Canada at 68.6%, after Prince Edward Island at 69.4%.
- In 2015, the Alberta youth employment rate at 61.2% was the highest among the provinces, after Saskatchewan at 61.5%.

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

- The Services-Producing sector in Alberta comprised 76.5% of all employed youth.
- In 2015, Alberta youth accounted for 36.8% of those employed in the Accommodation and Food Services industry.

Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

- 62.7% of employed youth had obtained a high school diploma, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, a university degree.
- Of employed youth in Alberta, 76.1% of women and 72.3% of men had high school diploma or higher in 2015.

Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

- In 2015, Youth made up 13.9% of all employment in Alberta.
- 61.8% of youth were employed in full-time positions.
- Under half, or 47.1% of all employed female youth worked part-time.
- Only 7.4% of youth employed in Alberta worked part-time instead of full-time due to business conditions, or looked for and were unable to find full-time employment.

Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

- The average hourly wage paid to youth was \$11.27 less than the provincial average hourly wage of \$29.06.
- The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education attained than the wage paid to female youth.

Alberta Youth Population Statistics

Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the age of 15 and 24 years.

In Canada, 15.1% of the working age population in 2015 was youth. The proportion of youth in the working age population ranged from 12.7% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 16.5% in Manitoba of the total working age population in the ten provinces (Figure 1). Alberta had the fourth highest proportion of youth in the working age population, at 15.6%, behind Manitoba's 16.5%, Saskatchewan's 15.9%, and Ontario's 15.8%. Alberta's percentage of youth in the working age population exceeded the national average by 0.5 percentage points.

Figure 1

Youth in Canada and Provinces, 2015			
	Working Age Population (15+ years)	Youth (15-24 years)	Youth Proportion of WAP
Canada	29,279,800	4,432,400	15.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	442,900	56,300	12.7%
Prince Edward Island	120,900	18,300	15.1%
Nova Scotia	785,500	111,600	14.2%
New Brunswick	622,000	84,600	13.6%
Quebec	6,843,300	958,900	14.0%
Ontario	11,385,600	1,797,000	15.8%
Manitoba	987,200	163,000	16.5%
Saskatchewan	861,500	136,700	15.9%
Alberta	3,353,800	523,000	15.6%
British Columbia	3,877,100	583,100	15.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The youth population in Alberta grew by 9.4%, or 46,300, between 2005 and 2015 (Figure 2). This growth rate was 3.6 percentage points higher than the youth national average, but was 17.0 percentage points lower than the growth of working age population in Alberta over the same period.

Figure 2

Growth of Youth and Working Age Population, 2005 and 2015				
	2005	2015	Growth	Growth Rate
Canadians	25,754,700	29,279,800	3,525,100	13.7%
Youth in Canada	4,298,600	4,432,400	249,700	5.8%
Albertans	2,608,100	3,353,800	689,800	26.4%
Youth in Alberta	490,100	523,000	46,300	9.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

Youth in Alberta made up 14.6% of the labour force and 13.9% of those employed in 2015 (Figure 3).

In 2015, youth accounted for less than a third, or 25.9%, of the unemployed in Alberta. Alberta's youth unemployment rate was 10.7%, up from 9.5% in 2014, and was 4.7 percentage points higher than the 2015 provincial rate.

Alberta's youth participation and employment rates were lower than the provincial average by 4.4 and 7.4 percentage points, respectively.

Figure 3

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics, 2015			
	Alberta Youth (15-24 years)	Alberta (15+ years)	Youth's Share
Working Age Population	523,000	3,353,800	15.6%
Labour Force	358,700	2,449,200	14.6%
Employment	320,300	2,301,100	13.9%
Unemployment	38,400	148,000	25.9%
Unemployment Rate	10.7%	6.0%	
Participation Rate	68.6%	73.0%	
Employment Rate	61.2%	68.6%	

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The proportion of youth in Alberta who were not participating in the labour force and were not in school at 8.4%, was lower than the average for Albertans aged 15-64, at 13.3% (Figure 4).

Figure 4

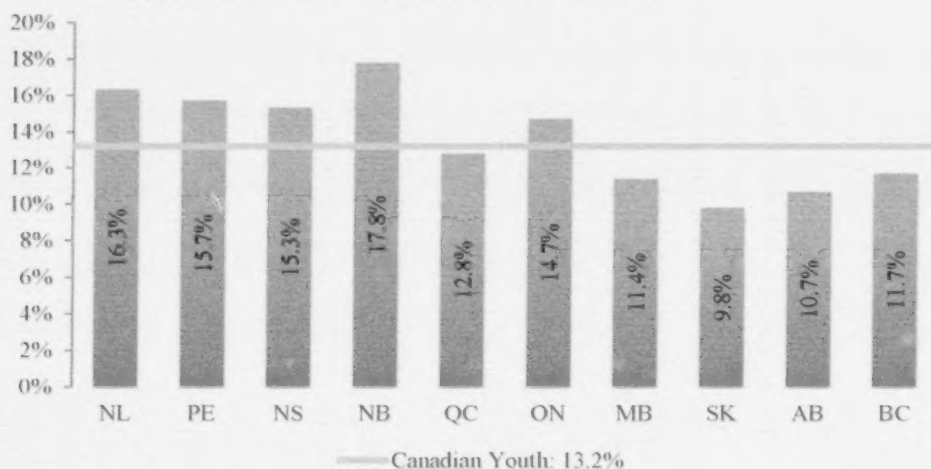
Participation in the Labour Force by Student Classification				
Age Group	In Labour Force and in School	Not Labour Force and in School	Not Labour Force and Not in School	In Labour Force and Not in School
15-24	20.8%	23.0%	8.4%	47.7%
15-64	5.6%	5.1%	13.3%	75.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Note: Data on student status is not collected on persons aged 65 and over

Alberta's youth unemployment rate at 10.7% was the second lowest among the ten provinces, after Saskatchewan's 9.8% and was 2.5 percentage points lower than the Canadian youth average of 13.2% (Figure 5).

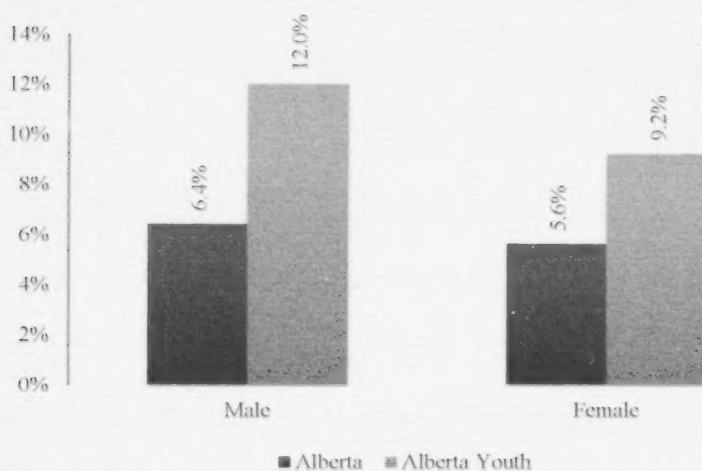
Figure 5
Youth Unemployment Rates in Canada by Provinces, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Female youth had a lower unemployment rate than their male counterparts by 2.8 percentage points in 2015 (Figure 6). The unemployment rate for Alberta males 15 years and over was 0.8 percentage points higher than for females from the same age group.

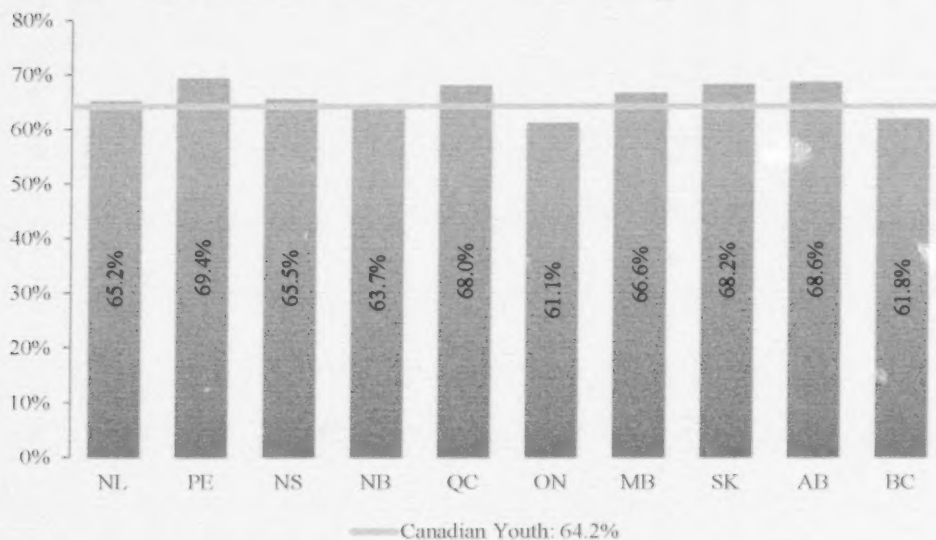
Figure 6
Alberta Youth Unemployment Rate by Gender, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2015, Alberta's youth participation rate at 68.6% was the second highest among the provinces, and was 4.4 percentage points higher than the Canadian youth average of 64.2% (Figure 7).

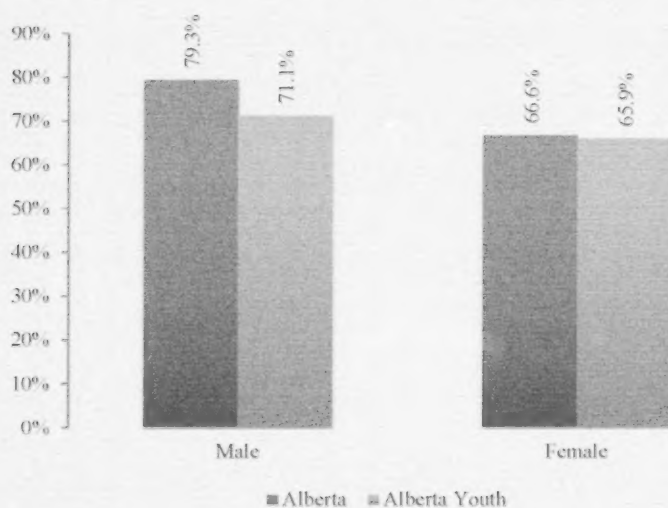
Figure 7
Youth Participation Rates in Canada by Provinces, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The participation rate for female youth in Alberta was 65.9%, which was 0.7 percentage point lower than the provincial average for women and 5.2 percentage points lower than the participation rate for male youth (Figure 8).

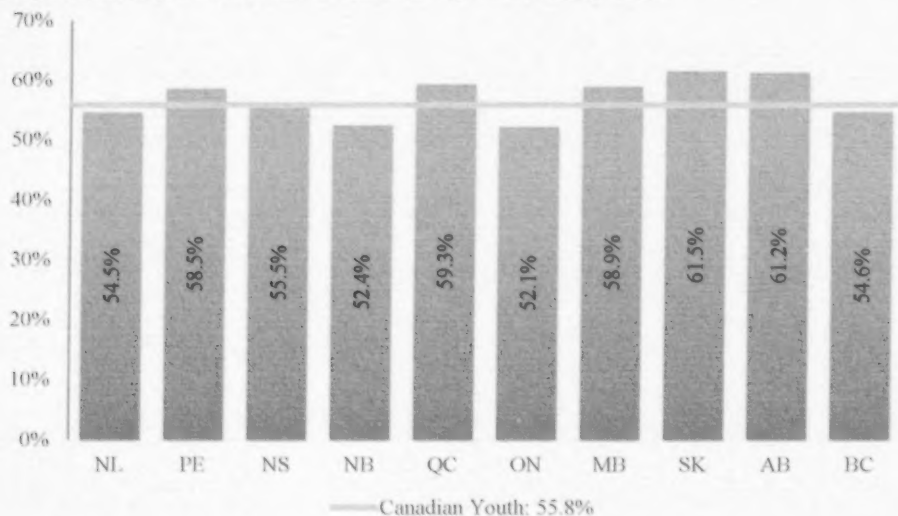
Figure 8
Alberta Youth Participation Rate by Gender, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta's youth employment rate at 61.2% was the highest among the provinces (Figure 9). Alberta's rate was 5.4 percentage points above the average Canadian youth rate in 2015.

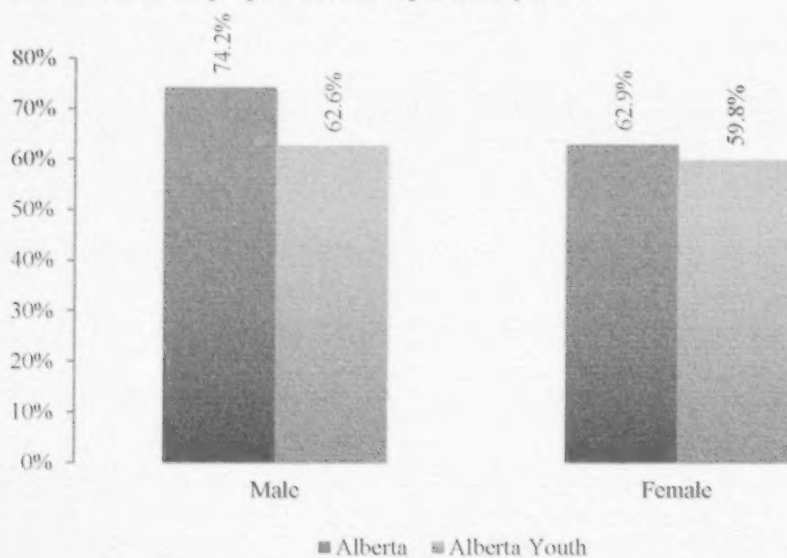
Figure 9
Youth Employment Rates in Canada by Provinces, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2015, the employment rate for male youth in Alberta was 2.8 percentage points higher than the rate for female youth and 11.6 percentage points lower than the rate for males 15 years and over (Figure 10).

Figure 10
Alberta Youth Employment Rate by Gender, 2015



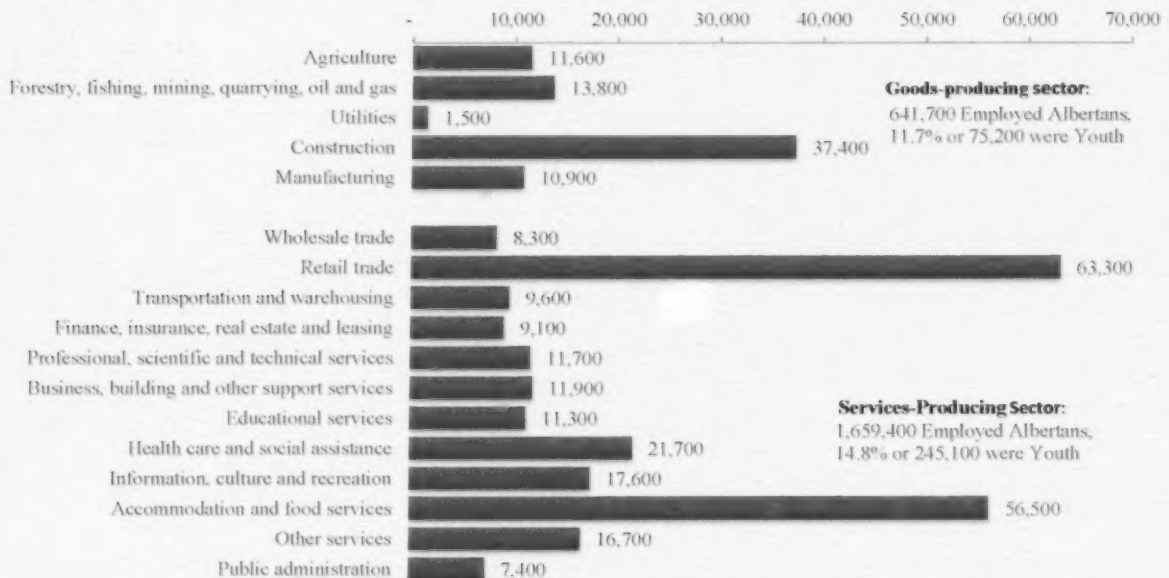
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

In 2015, there were 641,700 Albertans employed in the Goods-Producing Sector and 11.7% were youth (Figure 11). In the Services-Producing Sector, 1,659,400 Albertans were employed, of which 14.8% were youth.

Of employed youth in Alberta, 76.5% worked in the Services-Producing Sector. The three industries that employed the largest number of youth were Retail Trade, 63,300; Accommodation and Food Services, 56,500; and Construction, 37,400.

Figure 11
Alberta Youth Employment by Industry, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2015, 80.9% of Albertans aged 15 to 24 employed in the Goods-Producing Sector were male (Figure 12). Of all employed male youth in Alberta, 64.0% were employed in the Services-Producing Sector, and 16.2% were in the Retail Trade industry.

Female youth comprised 55.9% of all youth employed in the Services-Producing Sector in 2015. Of female youth employed in that sector, 65.9% of them worked in three industries: Retail Trade; Accommodation and Food Services and Health Care and Social Assistance.

Figure 12

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry and Gender, 2015

Industry	Number Employed		Proportion by Gender	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Goods-producing sector	60,800	14,400	80.9%	19.1%
Agriculture	7,600	4,000	65.5%	34.5%
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	11,800	2,000	85.5%	14.5%
Utilities	*	*	*	*
Construction	33,300	4,100	89.0%	11.0%
Manufacturing	7,600	3,300	69.7%	30.3%
Services-producing sector	108,000	137,100	44.1%	55.9%
Wholesale trade	6,000	2,300	72.3%	27.7%
Retail trade	27,300	35,900	43.1%	56.7%
Transportation and warehousing	7,100	2,500	74.0%	26.0%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	4,000	5,100	44.0%	56.0%
Professional, scientific and technical services	6,000	5,700	51.3%	48.7%
Business, building and other support services	7,600	4,300	63.9%	36.1%
Educational services	4,400	7,000	38.6%	61.4%
Health care and social assistance	3,700	18,000	17.1%	82.9%
Information, culture and recreation	8,200	9,400	46.6%	53.4%
Accommodation and food services	20,000	36,400	35.4%	64.4%
Other services	9,600	7,100	57.5%	42.5%
Public administration	4,000	3,400	54.1%	45.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding

* Insufficient data

Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

In 2015, 25.7% of employed youth in Alberta had no degree, certificate or diploma compared to 10.8% for employed Albertans aged 15 years and over, and 34.1% of youth had high school diploma as their highest level of education compared to 23.1% of Albertans aged 15 years and over (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Employed Alberta Youth by Highest Level of Education Attained, 2015		
Education Level	Albertans (15+ years)	Albertans (15 to 24 years)
No degree, certificate or diploma	10.8%	25.7%
High school graduate	23.1%	34.1%
High school graduate, some post-secondary	4.9%	11.6%
Postsecondary certificate or diploma Without high school diploma	2.3%	0.7%
Postsecondary certificate or diploma With high school diploma	32.0%	18.7%
University degree	27.0%	9.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Among employed youth with a university degree, 56.7% were females and 43.3% were males (Figure 14). For employed youth with high school diploma as their highest level of education, 55.3% were males and 44.8% were females.

Figure 14

Employed Alberta Youth by Highest Level of Education Attained and Gender, 2015			
Education Level	Youth (15-24 years)	Male Share	Female Share
No degree, certificate or diploma	82,200	56.2%	43.8%
High school graduate	109,200	55.3%	44.8%
High school graduate, some post-secondary	37,300	46.9%	53.1%
Postsecondary certificate or diploma Without high school diploma	2,400	62.5%	*
Postsecondary certificate or diploma With high school diploma	60,000	50.8%	49.2%
University degree	29,300	43.3%	56.7%

Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding

* Insufficient data

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

The proportion of youth employed in part-time positions was 38.2%, more than double the proportion for Albertans 15 years and older, at 17.0% (Figure 15). The proportion of female youth in part-time employment was 47.1%, which was 16.9 percentage points higher than the proportion for male youth.

Figure 15

Full-time and Part-time Employment by Gender, 2015				
	Albertans (15 to 24 years)		Albertans (15+ years)	
	Employed	Share	Employed	Share
Both Genders	320,300	100.0%	2,301,100	100.0%
Full-Time	197,900	61.8%	1,910,800	83.0%
Part-Time	122,400	38.2%	390,300	17.0%
Male	168,800	100.0%	1,262,500	100.0%
Full-Time	117,800	69.8%	1,142,900	90.5%
Part-Time	51,000	30.2%	119,500	9.5%
Female	151,500	100.0%	1,038,700	100.0%
Full-Time	80,100	52.9%	767,800	73.9%
Part-Time	71,400	47.1%	270,800	26.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The proportion of youth in Alberta who looked for full-time work but worked part-time due to business conditions, or could not find full-time employment, was 7.4%, which was 0.3 percentage points higher than the provincial average of 7.1% (Figure 16).

Figure 16

Reasons for Part-Time Employment, 2015		
Reason for working Part-Time	Albertans (15 to 24 years)	Albertans (15+ years)
Going to school	71.6%	25.8%
Personal preference	6.1%	29.1%
Business conditions, did not look for full-time work in last month	8.5%	11.2%
Could not find full-time work, did not look for full-time work in last month	2.3%	1.8%
Business conditions, looked for full-time work in last month	4.9%	4.9%
Could not find full-time work, looked for full-time work in last month	2.5%	2.2%
Other reasons	4.1%	25.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta Youth Wages

Overall, youth in Alberta earned less per hour than the provincial average at each level of education (Figure 17). The average hourly wage paid to youth was \$11.27 less than the provincial average hourly wage in 2015.

Figure 17

Average Hourly Wages by Highest Level of Education Attained, 2015

Educational Level	Alberta	Alberta Youths
Less than high school	\$20.73	\$14.45
High school graduate	\$24.42	\$17.62
Some post-secondary	\$22.61	\$16.81
Post-secondary certificate or diploma without high school completion	\$29.36	\$22.65
Post-secondary certificate or diploma with high school completion	\$30.88	\$21.03
University degree	\$35.22	\$21.91
All Education Levels	\$29.06	\$17.79

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education than the wage paid to female youth in 2015 (Figure 18). The highest wage gap between male and female occurred at the Post-secondary certificate or diploma at \$4.65.

Figure 18

Average Hourly Wages of Alberta Youth by Highest Level of Education Attained and Gender, 2015

Educational Level	Youth	Male	Female
Less than high school	\$14.45	\$15.54	\$13.09
High school graduate	\$17.62	\$19.41	\$15.46
Some post-secondary	\$16.81	\$18.56	\$15.26
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	\$21.09	\$23.40	\$18.75
University degree	\$21.91	\$23.46	\$20.74
All Education Levels	\$17.79	\$19.32	\$16.13

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Appendix

All definitions come from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-G.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Youth: Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Packages
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

<http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-market-information.html>

In Edmonton: 780.422.4266

Long distance: 1.800.661.3753

© 2016 Government of Alberta.

Published: June 2016.

ISBN 978-1-4601-2959-3 (PDF)

ISSN 2292-8197 (online)

